

BENT RIM BUGLE



The official newsletter of the MMBA - Issue #64 - Summer 2003



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The Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) is a 501-(C)(3) non-profit organization. We have 1,600 members in nine chapters throughout Michigan. The mission of the MMBA is to promote responsible mountain biking and to work toward the goals of common land access and natural resource protection through interaction with policy makers, the cycling industry, race promoters, mountain bikers and other trail users.

The Bent Rim Bugle is published four times a year (March, June, Sept, Dec.) by the Michigan Mountain Biking Association and distributed to all members. It is made possible by volunteers and riders like you.

Bent Rim Bugle

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Bent Rim Bugle

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Visit the MMBA on the web, **new and improved site**, for contact information and much more.

www.mmba.org

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DAN HARRISON

The Trail Ahead

president@mmba.org



On April 5 and 6, Todd Scott and I attended an official North Country Trail Association trail workshop in White Cloud, in the Huron-Manistee National Forest. We met some great folks, had a good time, worked hard, ate like gourmet lumberjacks, and learned a thing or two. The session confirmed for me that a fun, sustainable trail doesn't care if you're a hiker or a biker. The physics of soil composition and flowing water, not wheels versus heels, dictate the shape of the trail. I could read you a technical passage from the trail building manuals of the US Forest Service, the Student Conservation Association, IMBA, or the NCTA, and you wouldn't be able to tell me which was which. That's a good sign that a consensus has emerged on what makes a proper trail.

It wasn't always that way. Bill Menke, the instructor, is a likeable guy. A National Parks Service retiree, he is now the NCTA's Trail Foreman, and he knows his stuff. We learned that the section we were working on had originally been built using prison labor, pulling a rock-weighted scarifying sled. The route they took was the one you'd expect from a crew that looked on the job as punishment: a straight, ugly scar on the landscape, with little sense of flow or delight in its surroundings.

As a consequence, our workshop consisted of surveying and constructing a reroute. The old trail, deeply gouged into the terrain, ran directly up and down a ridge, across a level plain, down a steep bank, and across Coal Creek on a bridge consisting of a single log. The bank featured water bars, and a sign urging cyclists to dismount and carry their bikes to prevent erosion (i.e., not ride around the water bars). Yes, this was bike-legal trail—the southernmost section in the Huron-Manistee, beginning at M-20 and proceeding north.

The reroute we flagged during the Saturday afternoon session, ascended and descended the ridge in a single, gentle traverse. We measured the fall line at 20%, limiting us to a comfortable sustained trail grade of 10%. We stayed off the flats, where the drainage was poor. Perhaps most important, we surveyed the trail ahead for a future workday: flagging a better route down the bank, across the creek, up the other side and along a ridge offering a scenic overlook. On Sunday, we cleared the corridor, benchcut the traverse, tied back into the old trail, and blocked the rerouted section with deadfall and brush. One criticism would be the lack of a few grade dips on the sidehill run, to prevent water from running down the trail.

When complete, the trail will take users in a smoothly flowing arc. Water will, for the most part, sheet continuously across the tread, without developing enough velocity to erode it. The soft, organic-rich soil will quickly compact under use, leaving a berm along the downslope edge which can be easily removed through routine maintenance. The old waterbars will become checkdams assisting in the revegetation and disappearance of the disused trail. The log bridge will rot away in peace, replaced by a sturdy USFS-approved structure upstream. The "walk your bike" sign will become unnecessary.

continued on page 6

News from the Executive Director – Todd Scott

Thanks to Scarlett's bike shop in Pontiac.

Their recent 75th Anniversary Sale (Yes, 75 years!) included a fundraiser for the MMBA. The result was a \$225.00. Thanks and here's to another 75 years.

Thanks to Zoo-de-Mack

Hopefully many of you got the chance to ride in this year's Zoo-de-Mack (www.zoo-de-mack.com). The weather was much improved over last year and the turnout was excellent. The Zoo-de-Mack organizers are MMBA members and this year they put our applications in each rider's packet. Thanks, guys!

MMBA CPS Survey

In order to provide more racer feedback for CPS promoters, we added an on-line survey to our web site: <http://www.mmba.org/racing.htm>. If you participate in a CPS race, please consider taking a little time to evaluate the race and help keep our Series one of the tops in the U.S.

League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB)

Each year the LMB produces a road ride calendar and this year's includes an excellent fall photo taken at Burchfield's Dragonball Run. To get a copy of this calendar, call (888) 642-4537.

IMBA Newsletter

If you're an IMBA member make sure you check the MMBA Success Story article in the most recent issue. IMBA selected our partnership with the Michigan Horse Council as a model for other organizations around the world to follow.

Michigan Trails Day

Trails supporter Senator Mike Bishop pushed the State Senate to pass a Michigan Trails Day resolution. The day is June 7th and coincides with National Trail Day.

Metroparks Presentation

We recently gave a brief overview of the MMBA to the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority park management team. It went very well. I wouldn't be surprised if other Metroparks contact us after they discuss possibilities with their staff. Don Potter, Park Manager for Stony Creek spoke very, very highly of us and afterward encouraged us to increase the trails at his park.

North Country Trail Building Workshop

President Dan Harrison and I attended the North Country Trail Association's (NCTA) Trail building workshop recently and it was hugely positive. We met a lot of friendly folks, many of whom are cyclists. We spent a day in the classroom and another doing trail work. It was refreshing to learn that the NCTA trail design and construction

guidelines area the same as IMBA's. Attending this class puts us in a better position to take a more active role in building, maintaining, and adopting sections of this trail.

MMBA Opposes a proposed ORV Bill

We recently learned of a newly submitted bill in the Michigan House. The bill would allow disabled ORV users over 60 to use non-motorized trails to get to ORV trails. There are many reasons we oppose this bill as written and have submitted them to the Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Committee:

Most non-motorized trails are not designed to handle ORV use, typically due to their trail width or non-hardened trail surfaces. ORV use can cause significant though unintended damage, lessening the trail's value to non-motorized users. ORV use can be especially damaging during spring thaws or on fragile (e.g. sandy) soils.

Trail use conflicts will increase, especially with trails used by equestrians. Unless trained, trail cyclists can spook horses. An encounter with a loud, large ORV may prove worse.

Keeping motorized traffic off non-motorized trails is already a major problem in many areas. Allowing limited exemptions only clouds the current regulations. ORV tracks on a trail make it more inviting to those who are not permitted by this exemption.

Some trails segments use private land easements that forbade motorized use.

Alternatively, we propose the DNR allow limited exemptions on non-motorized trails suitable for limited motorized use. The DNR would determine such suitability based in part on trail width, surface, sight lines, illegal ORV use in the area, easement and other trail users.

Attention Dealers!

The MMBA would like to display our member applications in your store. If you have not received a supply from your local chapter, send us an email (info@mmba.org) and we'll drop some in the mail.

Todd Scott



IMBA
International Mountain Bicycling Association
Always a Strong Supporter of the MMBA.



Women and Bikes

(we might surprise you!)

No need to stop!

Here's a photo of me (and my daughter, Kati) just 19 days before she was born! How's that for Women and Bikes!

Teresa Hallwood

Fenton/Holly, MMBA, IMBA,
Revolution Cycle Club



Hey Ladies! We still need submissions for the women and bikes page! So if you have stories, photos or anything else for this page by women, about women, or for women send them in. See the photo guidelines on page 20. Email what you come up with to: brb@mmba.org . Anyone who went to the BOW clinic please send in stories about the day.

Help Rebuild the Farm at Maybury.

As many of you know the Maybury State Park Petting Farm in Northville Township was destroyed by a fire that burned the barn to the ground and killed nearly 50 animals. The Northville Community foundation has created the 'Maybury Farm' endowment and you can play a key role in restoring a place that has been loved by all. Brochures explaining the endowment and how you can contribute are available by calling the Foundation office at 248-374-0200. They will mail the brochure out to you upon your request. You can also visit the City or Township offices for a brochure. Local banks may also be supplied.

Or simply send donations to:
Northville Community Foundation
 321 N. Center
 Suite 130
 Northville, Michigan 48167

"FEATURED SHOP" >>>>> DEXTER BIKE AND SPORT (WITH SOME MMBA HISTORY)

by Jeffrey Turck - shop owner

What kid doesn't grow up riding a bike? Well I started early like most kids, but really caught the mountain biking bug in the mid 1980's. Mountain biking was the perfect combination of fun and fitness. After the M.D.N.R. banned mountain bikes in 1989, I teamed up with numerous people around the state (Dwain Abramowski, John Dohan, Tom Nell, Chris Delridge, Brian Delaney to name a few), and founded the M.M.B.A., of which I became the first Vice President and the first President of the Poto Chapter. A number of us worked together to create a scientific report based on topographical and soil map research which supported mountain bike use on Michigan trails. Dwain and I submitted this report to the M.D.N.R. in April of 1990, and in combination with lobbying at the local and state levels, the law banning mountain bikes was subsequently repealed.

In the spring of 1991 my career took me to California, and my advocacy desires there led to my Presidency of R.O.M.P. (San Jose), and hooked me up with Michael Kelly of the East Bay Coalition (Berkeley) and Jim Hasenaur of S.O.R.B.A. (Los Angeles) both of which were founders of I.M.B.A. We organized an advocacy retreat in San Jose, at which I presented the M.M.B.A. reports and described the implementation of its strategy. That original M.M.B.A. report was incorporated into the model that I.M.B.A. uses for its global support efforts.

In 1993, I joined Cannondale Corporation, as the Account Manager for northern California, Nevada and Hawaii. In the first year of the Volvo-Cannondale Mountain Bike team, prior to the team hiring of Steve Gravenites, I wrenched for Myles Rockwell, Libor Karas and Tinker Jaurez at the northern California Cup races. While at Cannondale, I produced four tech videos which showed how to rebuild and customize the Headshok. I was later promoted to President of Cannondale Japan and lived there for 1 1/2 years. I later moved to Connecticut and worked at the Cannondale headquarters as the International Sales Manager.

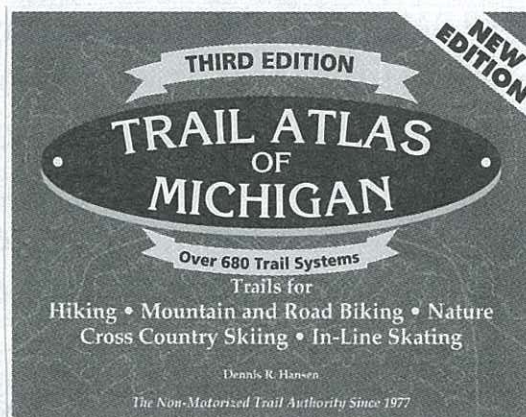
I moved back to my home town of Dexter after two more years of work in the international arena, to follow my dream of owning a pro bike shop in Dexter. My wife Denise and I are running the shop together. We are stocking Cannondale, Litespeed, Tomac, and Independent Fabrication. We have a very large selection of clothing and all the top brands and items one might expect at a pro bike shop. Our upstairs also has running and fitness wear, swimsuits, hiking gear, and disc golf items. We are equipped to handle all repair needs, suspension rebuilds, custom fitting, and

custom build-ups. We have a rentable cabin called the "Potawatomi Lodge" on Patterson Lake which is 400 yards off the Potawatomi trail for those looking for a unique weekend (or mid-week) of Poto fun. More riding, less driving!

We are sponsoring the Cannondale Midwest Racing Team, and the Cyclocross Championship Series. We just finished the first annual Bike Safety Program for the Dexter School District, and are engaged in a program called Safeycle which provides recycled bikes to the needy. We offer 10% off non-sale clothing and accessories to card carrying M.M.B.A. members.

We are located in Dexter Michigan on the corner of Main and Broad, by the clock. Our hours are Tue-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 12-4, closed Mondays. Phone us at **734-426-5900** or check out our website at **www.dexterbikeandsport.com**.

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With such technique, and willing volunteers, the future of the NCT is indeed bright. Much brighter than its past, which is shrouded in revisionist history. Bill Menke is an honest fellow, and in any event, the facts are on the ground for all to see. To anyone who argues that the NCT should be closed to bicycles because "it was designed primarily as a hiking path," I must reply that, by the NCTA's own admission, the problematic sections of the NCT were not properly designed at all-- not for sustained use of any kind. When its worst sections are properly rebuilt, it will be physically identical to the specifications for a multi-use trail as set out by the USFS, the SCA-- and IMBA.

Half the proposed length of the North Country Trail exists as just a line on a map. Much of that is on non-federal land--state, municipal, and private. To complete and certify those miles will take efforts of every kind. Lobbying from the halls of Congress to City Hall. Beating the bushes for willing sellers to provide easements across their land, and dollars to pay them with. And a massive cooperative effort among land managers at every level, and volunteer organizations, to lay out, build, and maintain the trail. Add to that the effort of rebuilding the worst sections of the existing trail, with its extra burden of reclamation, and you're looking at a Herculean task.

The surest way to ensure that the base of talent and manpower is adequate to the job, is to recognize and empower all the users. Hikers, bikers, runners, skiers, snowshoers, mushers—all should be encouraged to participate, as was envisioned in the National Scenic Trails Act that created the NCT.

State trail organizations like the Buckeye Trail in Ohio, are forging ahead on the strength of a multi-use policy. Meanwhile the Wisconsin offices of the Parks and the Forest services are fighting a rearguard action with their "Desired Future Condition" (DFC) statement--another bit of revisionist history, meant to turn the NCT into a clone of the hiking-only Appalachian Trail--that lacks any sound legal, procedural, or practical basis. So here we are, stuck in the middle with the Michigan-based NCTA. The NCTA does a very good job of representing the interests of the hiking community. It is time for the National Parks Service, as the NCT's oversight agency, to take the lead in broadening the trail's base of support, rescind the DFC, and invite all the stakeholders to the table.

Until then, we are second-class citizens, working on our own land. I don't care how good the food is, that leaves a bad taste in my mouth.



Michigan Tech Youth Programs offers mountain bike courses

HOUGHTON, MI-- Michigan Technological University's Youth Programs Division is pleased to announce that it will again be offering week long mountain biking opportunities for youth. Michigan Tech Youth Programs, currently in its 31st year of offering summer youth opportunities, will offer two sessions of mountain biking options in the Summer of 2003. Mountain Biking will be offered the week of July 20-July 26, and Mountain Biking:Exploring the Keweenaw will be offered the week of July 27-August 02. Both classes are open to students currently in grades 9-11.

The first class session, Mountain Biking, will give you the chance to check out the beautiful environment of the Keweenaw Peninsula. Students will build mountain-biking skills while exploring trails near the scenic and historic Portage waterway. Students will ride in the morning, have lunch on the trail, and bike back to campus for dinner. Beyond learning about biking strategies, students will explore the ecology and natural history of the geologically unique Copper Country. Up to thirty miles may be ridden per day on sand, gravel, rock, mud, clay, and pavement-rain or shine!

The second option, Mountain Biking-Exploring the Keweenaw, is for students who want to try an off-road adventure in the Keweenaw Peninsula with a mountain bike as transportation. Students will take advantage of numerous mining, logging, and snowmobile trails that connect them with the unique natural and cultural history of the Copper Country. Students can expect to traverse a challenging variety of hilly terrain on sand, rock, gravel, mud, and pavement. Students will ride on roads and trails to access rustic camping sites. Low-impact camping rules, safety issues, and local history/geology will be discussed on campus on Monday, followed by a short afternoon ride to determine your bicycling preparation and to introduce you to group-riding strategies. The 145-mile trip begins Tuesday morning with a maximum one-day distance of 45 miles. Each trail and campsite offers a different shoreline geology or northern forest ecosystem to observe, examine, and enjoy. Camping equipment will be transported by van to each night's rustic campsite.

Those wishing more information can visit the Michigan Tech Youth Programs website at <http://youthprograms.mtu.edu> email yp@mtu.edu or call 906-487-2219.

What's your favorite trail in Michigan and why?

From the MMBA.org message board:

□ I've only ridden about 10 different trails and so far my favorite is the Novi Tree Farm. I love all the twists and turns. Some may say that it's not hilly enough, but I think it's just right. I even like the dirt, my tires roll over it nice and easy. Honorable mention goes to: Highland, and Copper Harbor Trails in the U.P.

GorillaCookies (*started the thread*)

□ I haven't ridden all the trails in the area, but if I had to choose from the ones I have been on I would have to say Bloomer is my favorite. Why?? Well because it's the only park that I've found that has trails that actually scare the crap out of me...lol. I ride Bloomer and Stoney Creek as a combo and that works out great as Stoney has a really fun fast singletrack.

Mountain Mike

□ As a west-sider, I'd have to say that overall my favorite trail is Ft. Custer...but Yankee is great too, and the old Lawless (haven't ridden since the post-tornado re-routes) was fun now and then too. That said, I've heard that the trails in the U.P. blow away anything we've got down here.

Suydam

□ North Country Trail around Red Bridge all the way, baby. Tons of off camber turns, and the longest climbs and downhill I've ever ridden. The NCT has one of the only climbs ever that was simply too long for me to get up I climbed forever, and then when I thought the climb was going to end, it turned a corner and got longer and steeper. It is simply the toughest trail I've ever been on, including Yankee. Cannonsburg game area and ski area pale in comparison in terms of toughness (although the ski

area is really fun). In addition, you don't see many people on the trail, which is nice. It has spectacular views from lookout points on top of the climbs, and after your ride you can cool off with a dip in the crystal clear Manistee River. I rode the NCT for the first time a month or so ago, and I will definitely be back soon. The Michigan Tech trails were widely varied and really cool a couple of years ago, but I've heard a lot has changed recently so I can't vouch for them anymore.

Brian

□ What about BRIGHTON? One of the best in the area for sure, an all time favorite of mine. Or BRUNO's RUN? I realize it's a hell of a drive to get there, but definitely worth it when you do. As long as you're there, ride Grand Island which is in the same town and just a short ferry ride away. Two trails that every one in this state should experience at least once!!

Even though I've only ridden sections of it once, the North Country Trail is great and I plan to explore it more. It seems to come up on everyone's best of list in Michigan. My favorites around here would have to be Brighton, Highland, Poto, Holdridge (Gruber's), Pontiac and Novi. Oops, that's just about a majority of them isn't it?? It all depends on the mood I'm in and how much time I have. If I feel like going fast and flying down hills or going slower and enjoying a more technical trail. We are so lucky to have such a variety!

Happy Trails,
Santa Cruz

□ The one I'm riding at any given time. Love the one you're with baby!

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Paint Creek Bicycles belongs to and supports the MMBA, IMBA, LMB



The **MMBA** has adopted the **International Mountain Biking Association's (IMBA)**
Rules of the Trail:

The way we ride today shapes mountain bike trail access tomorrow. Do your part to preserve and enhance our sport's access and image by observing the following rules of the trail, formulated by IMBA, the International Mountain Bicycling Association. These rules are recognized around the world as the standard code of conduct for mountain bikers. IMBA's mission is to promote mountain bicycling that is environmentally sound and socially responsible.

1. Ride On Open Trails Only.

Respect trail and road closures (ask if uncertain); avoid trespassing on private land; obtain permits or other authorization as may be required. Federal and state Wilderness areas are closed to cycling. The way you ride will influence trail management decisions and policies.

2. Leave No Trace.

Be sensitive to the dirt beneath you. Recognize different types of soils and trail construction; practice low-impact cycling. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage. When the trailbed is soft, consider other riding options. This also means staying on existing trails and not creating new ones. Don't cut switchbacks. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.

3. Control Your Bicycle!

Inattention for even a second can cause problems. Obey all bicycle speed regulations and recommendations.

4. Always Yield Trail.

Let your fellow trail users know you're coming. A friendly greeting or bell is considerate and works well; don't startle others. Show your respect when passing by slowing to a walking pace or even stopping. Anticipate other trail users around corners or in blind spots. Yielding means slow down, establish communication, be prepared to stop if necessary and pass safely.

5. Never Scare Animals.

All animals are startled by an unannounced approach, a sudden movement, or a loud noise. This can be dangerous for you, others, and the animals. Give animals extra room and time to adjust to you. When passing horses use special care and follow directions from the horseback riders (ask if uncertain). Running cattle and disturbing wildlife is a serious offense. Leave gates as you found them, or as marked.

6. Plan Ahead.

Know your equipment, your ability, and the area in which you are riding -- and prepare accordingly. Be self-sufficient at all times, keep your equipment in good repair, and carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions. A well-executed trip is a satisfaction to you and not a burden to others. Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear.

Keep trails open by setting a good example of environmentally sound and socially responsible off-road cycling

Also Remember:

Spring Thaw Conditions.

We strongly urge you to avoid riding the trails during the spring thaw period. Water from the melting snow cannot pass through the frozen ground, so it puddles on the trail surface. Tire ruts help channel this water and cause erosion. The rule of thumb is the ground has thawed when the earthworms come out.

If you want to ride and unsure of the trail conditions what should you do? Our suggestion is to call the park or check the **MMBA bulletin board**. If you don't get an answer from these sources, make two plans: one for the trail and one for nearby paved or dirt roads. If you get to the trail and find it muddy, switch to the road plan. If you're unsure, practice abstinence. Waiting a week or two for the conditions to improve isn't the end of the world. It may help save the trails and your equipment. Of course another option is to ride when everything is frozen solid, typically in the early morning hours, but be watchful of icy spots.



Photos of our recent Mountain Kids event at Hanson Hills last month.



Photo by Eric Isaacsen

An e-mail list will be created for the Mountain Kids program. If you would like to be informed of future Mountain Kids events or to schedule an event please send me an e-mail at: mountainkids@mmba.org
You will be sent periodic e-mails to keep you abreast of Mountain Kids events.

Thanks for your support.

MOUNTAIN KIDS CORNER

This summer is going to be a busy season for Mountain Kids. The program has seen incredible growth in the amount of kids that will be serviced by the program. Below are dates for Mountain Kids Events this summer!

Sarah Manning-Mountain Kids Program Director

Upcoming events for 2003

June 18, 19 and 20th - 4-H Exploration Days at MSU.
Wed, June 18-The kids will learn about bike safety, we'll make sure the bikes are in working order and then take a ride around campus. Thurs, June 19th all day- The kids will go to Burchfield for a day of riding. Friday, June 20th-Wrap-up

More information for this event will be posted on the Bulletin Board

Sat, July 12th
Stony Creek Metropark
10 a.m. -1 p.m.-Children's Home of Detroit

Sat, July 19th
Island Lake Rec. Area
10:00-1:00-Redford/Northville Parks and Rec

1:30-4:30-Van Buren Parks and Rec



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T-9

For more information, or to schedule an event, contact Sarah Manning. manning@blclinks.net



Photo by Todd Scott taken of Pro Downhiller Marla Streb at the "Top Speed" IMAX movie world premiere at the New Detroit Science Center in April.



Bike Facts:

According to the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA), bike use is up, the first time since 1995. Off-road mountain biking is up 12%, growing from 14 million to 15.3 million.

According to the Outdoor Industry of America (OIA) State of the Industry report, the number of singletrack cyclists grew 192% (7.5 million) from 1998 to 2001. "Wide-dirt" path cyclists grew 100 percent to 6.9 million. Paved cyclists grew 2.2% to 11.8 million. Road cycling was the second most popular human powered activity after hiking.

Quoting Bicycle Retailer (5/1/03), "The Midwest seems poised for strong growth in cycling... While [the Midwest] may not have the most cyclists or retailers, they are developing a strong infrastructure -- passionate cyclists, developed advocacy, and trail groups and a population that is increasingly participating in more recreational activities."

Todd Scott-MMBA

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MMBA Executive Director Todd Scott handing out BRB's at the legislative breakfast at the capital in Lansing.

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2003 MMBA Championship Point Series

6/29/2003 Bloomer Park

7 The technical riders and locals flock to the Bloomer Park race in Rochester Hills. Spectators love to watch riders navigate the switchbacks. The course routing is always just a bit different from the last time and always challenging. No on-site camping. Contact: **Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.**

7/13/2003 Stony Creek Time Trial

8 This time trial is a mix of fast fire roads and smooth flowing singletrack with a boardwalk and stream crossings thrown in. This race is a good place for first-time racers to get into the sport. No on-site camping. Contact: **Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.**

8/3/2003 Big M Cross Country

9 The Big M XC race is know as a climbers course in beautiful northern Michigan. Contact: **Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.**

8/24/2003 Duane Chambers Memorial Time Trial at Fort Custer

1 This race is the last of the three time trials in the Festina/MMBA series. This is another excellent choice for first-time racers. *This is an MMBA Southwest Chapter trail fundraiser.* Contact: **Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.**

9/7/2003 Stony Creek Cross Country

1 The series revisits Stony Creek for a cross-country race! No on-site camping. Contact: **Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.**

9/14/2003 Addison Oaks Fall Classic

1 This fast and open course north of Rochester tends to keep groups racing in packs like a road race. And like road racing, tactics can play a part in this race. Can you stay on the leader's wheel? Can you beat the pack to the techie singletrack and make some time on them? Show up and find out. Contact: **Oakland County Parks, (248) 693-2432.**

9/21/2003 Aspen Park Cross Country

1 The lucky 13th race in the series is located in Gaylord! The **Aspen Park Singletrack** is located in a rolling 100 acre park that winds through stands of pine, hemlock and live beaver colonies. Watch out for fallen trees! *Note that the race will be staged at the nearby middle school. To get to the school, follow I-75 exit 282 (the north Gaylord exit) and head east (right) towards town. Go through town. At the very edge of town turn right on Maple Street. Follow around curve, the school is on the right and very easy to spot.* Contact: **Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-**

9/28/2003 Pando Challenge

1 This is the **16th** year of racing at Pando! Simply a legendary trail and event. Despite being around so long, the trail is always routed a bit differently every time. Located just north of Grand Rapids. Contact: **Fun Promotions, (616)-453-4245**

10/12/2003 Boyne Challenge

1 Boyne is one of the premier racing venues in the state because it has it all: great trails, climbs, downhill, technical singletrack, scenery, and facilities. This race is also the Fun Promotions State Championships. Contact: **Fun Promotions, (616)-453-4245**

Always check with promoter for information, current start times, race applications, pre-register dates and date of events. All dates on public properties are subject to land manager considerations and it is up to the rider to make sure that times and dates are current and correct. You do not have to be an MMBA member to ride in any of the races listed. However an MMBA membership and an annual \$5 tabulated fee are required to be scored in the points series. It is highly recommended that you renew your membership in the MMBA and pay the tabulation fee prior to the first race you want to count in the MMBA/CPS regardless of when your current membership expires. Inquiries regarding the MMBA Championship Points Series may be directed to the MMBA **CPS Director**.

Racing News

The 2003 MMBA Championship Point Series season is under way! We're happy to report that CPS participation is up this year compared to last and new CPS registrations are still coming in. If you haven't yet signed up you can do so online at www.mmba.org or at the MMBA tent at any MMBA CPS race.

Have you heard about the new High Point Series? For 2003, the CPS has added a new series based entirely on the number of races entered to reward our hard-core racers that race all season long. Every race in the CPS series, as well as all other MTB races promoted by Fun Promotions, Tailwind, and Thunder Bay Trail Association (Alpena), will be included for points accumulation toward year-end awards to be given out at the MMBA annual meeting held in February.

Each race started during the year will earn one participation point to be used to determine the winner in each of the following categories: Elite Men, Elite Women, Expert Women, Expert Men, Sport Women, Sport Men, Beginner Women, Beginner Men. No distinction will be made across age groups. The more races you attend the better your chances of winning. Ties will be broken by the highest overall CPS points. You have the opportunity this weekend to pick-up 2 points in the High Point series by racing at both the Bloomer Time Trial on Saturday and the Hansen Hills

Challenge on Sunday. Also, High Points can be earned at the Chippewa Hills Mountain Bike Race on June 21st in Hubbard Lake. Swag galore can be had at this race! The MMBA, in partnership with Michigan Youth Cycling (www.youthcycling.com), will be holding a riding skills clinic this June 28th at Bloomer Park in Rochester from 10 am to 1 pm and September 6th at Stony Creek Metropark. The clinic is for new riders who want to learn more about trail riding and bike maintenance. Scarlett's Bike & Fitness, in Pontiac, will be on hand June 28th (Paint Creek Bicycles in September) to show folks how

to keep their bike running it top shape. Experience mountain bikers, each with thousands of miles behind them, will be teaching folks the basics of bike handling and trail etiquette. For more information, or to sign up for the clinic, contact Shari Scurr at cps@mmba.org.

Two last notes to racers - there has been some comments about racers and the amount of trash they leave on the trail during a race. Please, please, please help the promoters and the local chapters by carrying out anything you carried in. Also, we have heard complaints about they way some racers pass others. It is advisable (and in the rules) to announce to the person you are passing, your intention to pass and on which side. And of course, only pass when and where there is space to make the pass without impeding the other rider. Let's all use our heads when out there to make the race fun for everyone!



Photos by Bryan Mitchell www.mountainbikemichigan.com

Expert 30-30 points leader Steve Charles at Addison.

Please take a moment to fill out an event survey at

<http://www.mmba.org/racing.htm> and give us feedback about what you like and don't like about the races you've been to, so far.

We look forward to hearing from you!
Shari Scurr-MMBA CPS Director cps@mmba.org

FUN PROMOTIONS INC. - 2003 EVENTS

2003 Michigan Cup Points Series

☺ **Michigan Cup Points to all riders!**

☺ **Awards to top 3-10 in all classes at each event!**

☺ **5 Race locations – 16th year promoting mountain biking!**

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Elite and Expert purses at most all events paying top 3-5 in each class!

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Best 6 races count for both Cross Country, & Downhill for series awards!

Points Breakdown: 1st =25, 2nd =22, 3rd =19, 4th =17, 5th =16, 6th =15, 7th =14, 8th =13, 9th =12, 10th = 11, 11th =10, 12th =9, 13th =8, 14th =7, 15th =6, 16th =5, 17th =4, 18th = 3, 19th = 2, 20th = 1 + 1 point per rider in your class!

33 Cross Country Classes:

Elite Men, Elite Women, Expert:19 & under, 20-29 30-39, 40-49, 50+, Women

Sport Men:14 & under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-59, 60+, Clydesdales, Single Speed, Sport Women 29 & under, 30+.

Beginner Men: 10 & under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-49, 50+, Clydesdales, Beginner Women: 14 & under, 15-29, 30+.

6 Downhill Classes:

Elite, Sport (29 & under, 30-39, & 40+), Beginners, Women's.

CANNONSBURG CHALLENGE MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE

****April 26 - 27, October 18 - 19 - Cannonsburg Ski Area - Grand Rapids, MI**
Average Over 300 Riders - Downhill, Kids & Cross Country Races
Fall event part of ski area open house / Over 1,000 Spectators

BOYNE CHALLENGE MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE

July 19-20 & **October 11-12* - Boyne Mountain Resort - Boyne Falls, Michigan
Average 350+ Riders - Downhill, Kids Races, Cross Country Races
*Home of the Michigan Mountain Bike State Championships

ITHACA CHALLENGE MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE

Saturday August 2nd - City of Ithaca, McNabb Mountain Bike Park - Ithaca, MI
Average over 250 Riders - Kids Races and Cross Country Races
City Park for Mountain Biking provided by the City of ITHACA

PANDO CHALLENGE MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE

May 17 - 18 & **September 27 - 28 - Pando Ski Area, Rockford, MI
May event will be Pando #41 - Average 400+ Riders / Over 1,000 Spectators
Oldest Established Event in Michigan "A Classic" **since 1987**
Downhill, Kids Races & Cross Country Races

HANSON HILLS CHALLENGE

****June 1st - Hanson Hills Ski Area - Grayling MI**
250 Rider Average - Cross Country & kids races

Look for your copy of the Michigan Mountain Biking News in early April

****MMBA Points** also, all others are **Michigan Cup Points Races** except Oct 18-19 Cannonsburg event = non-points race.

*******Endurance Events For 2003*******

24 HOURS OF BOYNE - May 24-25

12 HOURS OF PANDO - August 16

Mountain Bike Team Relay Events

Noon to Midnight or Noon to Noon - Individuals, 2 Person and 4 Person Teams Appeals
to Non-racers, as well as to Racers, Most laps in 12 or 24 hours wins!

For more info. Please visit www.funpromotions.com

Or Call 616 - 453 - 4245 - Brent Walk

CPS race moments

Photos by Bryan Mitchell www.mountainbikemichigan.com



Calvin Stewart, Left, and Bruce Hayward at the Addison finish line.



A racer getting' wet at the Fort Custer stream crossing.



A racer speed through the pines at Yankee Springs.



Libby Ford in the singletrack at Addison Oaks.



Elite men's start at the Addison Oaks County Park spring race.

Mountain Bike Happenings in Copper Harbor

Mountain biking in Michigan's most remote and sparsely populated county, Keweenaw County, continues to grow. It is gradually gaining a reputation amongst riders as some of the most diverse, scenic and challenging terrain in the Midwest. The 2002 season brought riders to this quaint Lake Superior harbor side community more than ever. While only a small percentage of the local population are riders, the majority of its business owners and residents are in support of the sport and the village is becoming more and more mountain biker-friendly.

Weekly group rides in Copper Harbor, led by the staff of the Keweenaw Adventure Company, saw it's greatest average weekly attendance in their four seasons of leading the Thursday Night social affairs. The Copper Harbor Fat Tire Festival, annual mountain bike race, shattered its past numbers in attendance with a turnout of 167 racers last Labor Day Weekend; up from 110 in '01 and 55 in '00. On the national level, the Keweenaw Peninsula and Copper Harbor were featured in an article in the August 2002 issue of **National Geographic Adventure Magazine**. The story was titled "Mission Superior" and focused on sea kayaking and mountain biking in the peninsula that " harbors sea caves, empty singletrack, a total absence

of chic and Zik's Bar." The story helped to put the Keweenaw on "the mountain bike map" as it sparked the curiosity of riders who traveled from as far as Georgia, Florida, Colorado, Texas and California to check out the trails.

The existing web of logging roads and future possibilities for new singletrack in the Keweenaw's backcountry are numerous. A vast majority of the uninhabited, forested land of undulating rocky ridges and valleys lies in the private ownership of a logging (paper) company. It is designated as Commercial Forest Reserve (CFR) where the company receives a tax break in exchange for keeping the lands open for public recreation. Recent conservation acquisitions by the Nature Conservancy and a 6300-acre purchase by the State in 2001 will help to preserve the pristine and unspoiled nature of this land and will help to guarantee the future of outdoor recreation.

Non-motorized trail development for mountain bikers, hikers and skiers, is at the top of the agenda on the new recreation plan. Work could begin as soon as this summer on a proposed high country, ridgeline route between Copper Harbor and Eagle Harbor and hopes are high for trail development on the new state land. Local volunteers have continued to create new singletrack connecting with the existing trail network in Copper Harbor and plan on expanding more in 2003.

For more information on Copper Harbor accommodations, activities and attractions visit: www.copperharbor.org and www.keweenawadventure.com

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43 - 45.5	9.5 - 11.5	11 - 12	Large
46 +	12 +	*	X-Large

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Chapter Chatter

Pontiac Lake Chapter News

As many of you are aware, the DNR denied our permit to finish the last portion of the DNR approved mountain bike trail, near the end, after Cross Road. There is a state-wide ban on new trails (the "no new trails moratorium" hereon referred to as "The Moratorium"). The DNR considers this last bit to be new trail therefore falling under The Moratorium.

On May 22 we met with the local DNR officials to discuss the situation and explain our position:

There are trails back in that area which we plan to incorporate into the bike trail. The only new trail we will add will be to circumvent the unsustainable portion of those existing trails. Thus, very little new trail will be built. However, according to the DNR, those trails are not part of the official Pontiac Lake trail system (they were user created and not approved by the DNR) and therefore can't be counted as existing trails for their purposes. Further, they are not on any Pontiac Lake trail map.

Still, this area is included in the Master Plan set forth by the DNR, some years ago, as part of the trail segregation. The idea was that we would acquire this section as a sort of replacement for some prime trail that we sacrificed in the segregation (the big/little puke area). This would continue to provide the horseback riders with access to the tunnel at Teggerdine Road but would eliminate two trail crossings between bikes and horses. The DNR maintains that when the plan was made, the DNR expected The Moratorium to be lifted by the time we got to this section. Instead it is still in force and nobody knows when it will be lifted. The DNR committee that created it no longer meets due to budget cuts. Therefore, they are unable to reconvene to dissolve it. After the meeting on May 22 I learned that PLRA is exempt from The Moratorium because it was to be built and used as a model for all new mtb trails within state held lands. The next step is to find out whom in the DNR and the MMBA knows about this exemption and get details about it. Hopefully, somebody has some documentation that we can show them and say "look, it's right here in black and white". This is what we are working on now. We are also looking at what steps need to be taken to have The Moratorium lifted outside the committee. Until we can resolve this matter all scheduled trail days at Pontiac Lake have been postponed.

Other items:

Soon there will be new signs for the new trail. The old ones are outdated and inaccurate. The DNR will prepare and install new signs for both the bike and horse trails. We plan to mark mileage, trail crossings and alternative trails.

This year we hope to install a kiosk near the parking lot so we can post information about the MMBA at Pontiac Lake. This plan is still in the information gathering stage. We may need help with this later (planning and building) so if any-

body out there has experience building this sort of thing and can donate some time, please let me know at pontiaclake@mmba.org. I think this will increase the presence of the MMBA at PLRA and also provide us with a way to communicate with non-MMBA trail riders.

If you see a horseback rider on a designated bike trail please be pleasant and politely point them in the right direction. It is easy to get turned around out there, especially now, since the trails are in flux and the signs are not yet updated. If you feel someone is aware that they are on the wrong trail just note as much information about them as you can (clothing, number of riders, horse color, etc.) and email it to me. pontiaclake@mmba.org There is really not much we can do if they ride the wrong trails but we can try to find out if it's always the same people and maybe find out who they are and go from there.

Thank you and have a happy summer.

Jody DeLavern, President, PLRA Chapter of the MMBA

Southeast Chapter News

The Southeast Chapter continues to see growing interest from land managers on the local level (i.e. City parks). The most recent projects that we are working on include Hines Park (Wayne Co.), Commerce Twp., and Warren. While local parks are typically smaller than state land we are working to create fun, interesting, sustainable trails. When details arise on our projects we will post info on the MMBA Bulletin Board and Calendar. If you have questions or would like info on any Southeast trails please e-mail southeast@mmba.org

Trail developments:

Maybury:

New trails...Thanks to all the volunteers and the DNR for a great effort. Before the mountain bike trails were open this season a new section called "The Sanatorium" was cut. The new portion has several short rolling hills as it winds through a small ravine.

Not only did we accomplish building the new section, but we also successfully closed a badly eroded portion of the original MTB trails. While many people were sad to see a favorite portion disappear, I hope riders will enjoy the roller coaster feel of the replacement trail.

Lakeshore Park (AKA Novi Tree Farm):

FYI the Tree Farm is actually called "Lake Shore Park" and will appear as such on maps from now on. We have more good news coming from "the farm" HID Kevin (Kevin Campbell) has taken over much of the trail coordinating duties, as we are pursuing an MOU between MMBA and



Photo by Bryan Mitchell www.mountainbikemichigan.com

Trail work at Maybury.

Novi. If you have not ridden there since last October the trail has nearly had a complete face lift. While we did loose many trails in the Sandstone lawsuit, we were able to create 3-4 miles of new single track and will be cutting some more new sections this summer/fall. The plan has been to create a single direction mountain bike trail. While building the new sections we also tried to incorporate some new challenges. Kevin has constructed several fun obstacles such as 2 flushes, the portable rock garden, last endo, and silicone sisters.

We have new sections planned and flagged with trail days happening shortly. If you would like to receive e-mail notices about Tree Farm Workdays please contact me at southeast@mmmba.org. Kevin along with Dave Cox have developed a new map which can be found at the trailhead as well as online. They have also been busy adding directional arrows.

Bloomer:

Art Fleming (Blumerdude) was busy over the winter and early spring, adding some new sections of single track. These areas should make for more race options for both the upcoming MTB Time trial and Cross Country races (see <http://www.tailwind.net> for race details)

Commerce Trail:

We have been given the green light to continue building trails at one of the commerce twp. Parks. Currently we have (1) mile in place and there are dozens of MX trails to connect and ride as well. There is also a paved trail that connects to other Commerce parks. The next section of flags is in place and I am looking for any volunteers to come out and help us cut the new trails. The potential for 4-5 miles of trails exists and even some stunts or technical sections. If you would like to help out please send an e-mail to southeast@mmmba.org. Look for workdays to be posted shortly on the MMBA website.

Hines Park Project:

We have pursuing this project for a few years, and are getting some positive feedback from Wayne County Parks and Rec. Matt Kowalczyk has presented proposals for the addition of a series of small single track sections along the Hines Park pathway. For those who are unfamiliar with Hines Park Drive, it follows the Rouge River from Northville to Dearborn.

Weekly Group Ride at the Farm: One thing is for sure the "Novi Nights" ride started last winter has grown into a fun ride for all levels. Kevin Campbell has been leading the rider since last spring and invites anyone who wants a tour to try the new trails or get out and have fun to show up every Tuesday 6:30PM at Lakeshore Park (AKA Novi Tre Farm). The riders also go over to the Lakeshore Grill after each ride for suds and more fun.

Annual Summer Solstice Ride at Maybury State Park, Northville. June 17th we'll meet in the parking lots off of Eight Mile Road at 8:30pm. Everyone is welcomed, especially those with rollicking attitudes. This is not a race, so don't fear if you can't push the gear. Start charging your light batteries now. We hope to have a big healthy crowd

as in year's past. For details on Maybury <http://www.trails-edge.com> if you have questions feel free to e-mail south-east@mmmba.org

Western Chapter News

The next meeting for the Western Chapter is Monday June 16th at 630pm. We meet at Brann's on Leonard at US-131 in Grand Rapids.

A couple of staff changes occurred at the last meeting. Dennis Murphy and Scott Peterson were elected to change places as the chapter's president and vice president. Jeff Foos has volunteered to take on the responsibility of trail coordinator at Bass River Recreation Area. Jeff will be holding his first trail maintenance day June 29th. The trailhead is about a mile north of M-45 on 104th Av. in Ottawa County.

The Ferris State University Mountain Bike & Cycle Club, headed by Heath Drone, have invested over 40 hours of volunteer trail work during the past couple months. In coordination with the National Forest Service, the FSU club has created, maintained, and marked over 13 miles of trail in the Hungerford Lake Recreation Area of the Huron-Manistee National Forest. Directions to trailhead from US-13: take exit 139, go west on M-20 about eight miles, go north on Cyprus (1/2 mile) then east on Hungerford Rd for (1/2 mile).

The Western Chapter, with Tailwind Enterprises, hosted the annual CPS kick-off race at Yankee Springs Recreation Area. Over 540 racers participated in this much-anticipated event. The weather was fantastic and the trail was in great condition thanks to John Haffenden and his team of volunteers, who put in 146 volunteer hours for race day.

Western Chapter volunteers have contributed 275 volunteer labor hours of to date, with more trail days still on the schedule!

Dennis Murphy

Northern Chapter News

Spring is slowly making its' self known here in the north country. With a ton of snow and very cold temperatures we had this winter, the trails will take longer than normal to be ready for bike traffic. Please don't ride the trails until the ground has thawed completely, otherwise you are responsible for the ensuing trail damage that may occur, and we all know that members of the MMBA are responsible trail users, not trail eroders. So, please be careful on these trails.

Look for more trail maintenance days on the Shingle Mill Pathway as well as a concerted effort on the High Country Pathway. We will be focusing a lot of energy on the HCP



Jeffrey Whiting riding at Aspen Park.

and what we need to do to bring it up to IMBA "Epic Ride" status. I think it would be cool for Michigan to have an epic ride because it will bring recognition to our volunteers as well as increase tourism to our state.

Be sure to purchase your raffle tickets this year. We will be raffling off

\$1,000.00 cash as a

grand prize. Additional prizes include a Trek mountain bike, Thule bike rack, Schwinn child's bike and an assortment of clothing and accessories. The drawing date is Sep 21, 2003 at the Aspen Park CPS race.

If you haven't yet experienced the Copper Harbor Fat Tire Festival, you need to make the trip up and check it out. Absolutely fabulous trails, scenery, eats and an overall great time. Check with Sam Raymond at Keewenaw Adventures for more information and to register. His email is sam@keewenawadventure.com. The event is held over the Labor Day weekend and is a riot!

Check the mmba calendar for more events and ride updates. Every bike shop here schedules regular weekly rides for your enjoyment.

When you ride our trails, please be aware of your surroundings and bring out what you bring in.

Ride On!

Eric Isaacsen-northern chapter president

Holly/Flint Chapter News

It's hard to believe summer is already here. I hope everyone had a good winter and spring. For many it was a long winter waiting for the warm temperatures of spring and the chance to ride the bike again. For those who rode this winter, I am sure the time passed too quickly. Now that summer is here it will be great to see old friends on the trail and to make a few new ones as we all enjoy the sport we love so much.

The Holly/Flint Chapter has set its trail maintenance days, so come on out and give back a little time to the trails you love to ride. We meet on the 4th Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. to maintain the Holdridge Lakes trails. We meet at the trailhead and work for approximately 3 hours. We would love to have many more people show up. I want to thank the regular, dedicated few who come all the time. There are still many opportunities to participate, so bring clippers and maybe a friend; it is a great way to introduce someone to our trails or even to introduce a new rider to our sport. Let's share the MMBA philosophy and goals with others, and hopefully recruit them as future chapter members.

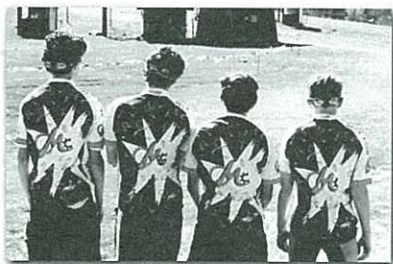
I would like to make another plea for chapter officers. We have several open positions. Your chapter needs you to volunteer your time and voice to keep our organization strong. The current group of officer's has been active for quite awhile. Its time for new blood and opinions to guide the chapter in it's future endeavors. From all the Holly/Flint Chapter members, we hope your summer is safe and enjoyable. Hope to see you at the trail.

Bradley J. Eshbaugh
President, Holly/Flint Chapter

News from Traverse City Area

Submitted by Robert Braveheart

The snow melted and you just can't get these guys off the slopes. In northwestern Michigan members of the Grand Traverse and Manistee ski clubs have joined forces to become a force in the MMBA point series. As the idea of forming a bike club was being bounced about the idea of a sponsor was explored in a lighthearted way. You know the story, some bike company will want us, maybe a local business, that sort of thing. The next week brought word that McLain's Cycle and Fitness (Traverse City) was willing to lend support and gave the shirt off their rack. The first outing for the newly formed McLain's team was



Cannonsburg where 1st, 3rd, 8th and 10th were captured in the beginner 11-14. The Pando race saw one rider move up to the sport 14 and under class, where he captured 1st. In the beginner 11-14 class 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th fell to team McLain. The beginner 10 and under class saw a first time racer capture 4th and in the 40-49 beginners a first time racing dad made good with 4th. So if you are at a MMBA race and hear the sound of bagpipes look around and say, "hi and good luck" to the young men of Team McLain.

Team Members:

Raffi Appel - sport 14
Gabe Braveheart - Beg. 11-14
Larry Warbasse - Beg. 11-14
Matt Madion - Beg. 11-14
Scott Czarnecki - Beg. 11-14
Kuke Kermode - Beg. 10 & under

MEMBER SHOPS

MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION

The stores and services listed below are MMBA Members as of June 2003. Those listed in bold text give 10% discounts to MMBA members! It wouldn't hurt to thank them all the next time you're in their shop.

Allen Park

Roll Models
(313) 382-1990

Beulah

Bent Crank Cyclery
(231) 882-7793

Birmingham

Bike USA, Inc.
(248) 594-8850

Brighton

K2 Bike
(810) 632-6325
www.k2bike.com

Dexter

Dexter Bike and Sport
(734) 426-5900
www.dexterbikeandsport.com

East Lansing

Denny's Cycle Sports
(517) 351-2000

Flint

Assenmacher's Hill Road Cycling
(810) 232-2994
www.assenmachers.com

Gaylord

Latitude 45 Cycle & Sport
(989) 731-4540
www.lat45sport.com

Holland

Velo City Cycles
616-355-2000

Jackson

On 2 Wheels, Inc.
517-789-6077

Jenison

Village Bike Shop Ltd.
(616) 457-1670

Lake Orion

Paint Creek Bicycles
(248) 693-9620

Lansing

Eric's Cycling & Fitness Center
(517) 882-7003

Muskegon

Breakaway Bicycles
(231) 759-0001

Okemos

Central Park Bicycles
(517) 349-8880

Owosso

House of Wheels, Inc.
(989) 725-8373

Oxford

Main Street Bicycles
(248) 236-9100

Pontiac

Scarlett's Bike & Fitness
(248) 333-7843
www.scarlettsbikeandfitness.com

Port Huron

The Bicycle & Fitness Barn
(810) 987-2523

Portage

Breakaway Bicycles
(616) 324-5555

Shelby Township

Main Street Bicycles
(586) 677-7755

Southfield

Steve's Specialty Sports
(248) 642-6676

Traverse City

Brick Wheels
(616) 947-4274
www.brickwheels.com

City Bike Shop Inc.
(231) 947-1312

Warren

Macomb Bike & Fitness
(810) 756-5400

Zeeland

Zeeland Schwinn Cycling & Fitness (616) 722-6223

Please send corrections to BRB@MMBA.ORG or call (248) 349-1937

WEIRD — By Skip Holland (an email to Todd Scott) While descending the hill today at Pontiac Lake about 1/2 mi. before the steel green barrier at the Maceday and Cross Rd. turn (1 mi. before the pines) I came across a disorientated elderly man just over the hill crest. The problem being, he was in his 1999 white Pontiac Grand Am! Severely dented and scraped it was wedged in between trees and not going anywhere. I could not believe my eye's! He somehow drove around that steel barrier and proceeded up the hill digging ruts and taking down trees. He almost made it all the way up! Suffering from Alzheimer's or something, he insisted he was with his handicapped son in the car. Worrying about his safety I rushed to the car but their was no-one in it. I asked him to open the trunk but he would not comply and began to call for his son he said was "over there with those people having a party". their were no people or party just dense woods. In 2 yrs. of being a member of the National Mt. Bike Patrol I would never have imagine seeing a vehicle, let alone a Grand Am, stuck up a hill on a twisty, tight, tree lined single track. It was to say the least quite eerie! My new cell phone had "no service" (of course) so I told him not to wander off, and would get him help (no amount could be enough). At the H.Q. Office the Rangers could not believe what I was telling them. I provided them with the exact location, the mans name, license # and completed an incident report. It's a sad day when we have to worry about these drivers on the trails now!!! I can't imagine how they'll get that car down. Maybe we can use it as a stunt. Sure would like to know the outcome. Look both way's before crossing the trail.

Below are additional MMBA corporate sponsors.

Associations

Thunder Bay Trail Association
Ossineke, MI (517) 727-3702

Companies

Keweenaw Adventure Co, LLC
Copper Harbor, MI
(906) 289-4303
Www.keweenawadventure.com

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www.michiweb.com/trailatlas

Trails-Edge.com
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Photo guidelines: Make sure photos are in focus, the subject is fairly close and they are interesting. Also try to make sure faces are lit well. Email photos to bryan@bryanmitchell.com. Keep the files large. Try to send sizes of at least 5X7 at a resolution of 300ppi. (2000X2000 pixels and a file size of at least 2 mb) Email photos as JPEG attachments and don't imbed them in documents like Microsoft Word. (make sure they have .jpg at the end of the file name).

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